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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/818,719	03/27/2001	Rangachari Anand	YOR920000177US1	1335

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EXAMINER	
AKERS, GEOFFREY R	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3625	

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)
09/818719	Anand
Examiner	**Group Art Unit**
Abdi G	3625

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

☑ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/21/01.

☐ This action is **FINAL.**

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle,* 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

☑ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s)____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s)____ is/are allowed.

☑ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s)____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claim(s)____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 11 9(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number)____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1 7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received:____.

Attachment(s)

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s).____

☑ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Other____

Office Action Summary

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Wong(US Pat. No: 6,343,275) in view of Klingman(US Pat. No: 5,799,285).

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2. As per claim 1 Wong teaches a method for representing a business process within a computing system(Abstract) comprising the steps of defining the business process using a state-machine based representation where transitions of the state machine represent roles and actions(Fig 129)(col 11 lines 30-46)(col 11 line 61-col 12 line 31) and states of the state machine represent stages in the business process where the commerce system is waiting for an event to occur(Fig 4A-Fig 128)(col 12 line 53-col 13 line 7) identifying the actions that participants with particular roles can perform at particular stages of the business process by corresponding state in the state machine(col 13 line 9-col 14 line 29). Wong does not specifically teach out-going transitions from that state. Klingman teaches this(Fig 2/50/52/54/56/62/66/70 /76/84/86/ 78/74/72/68/64/60)(col 9 line 64-col 12 line 6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Wong in view of Klingman to teach the claim . The motivation to combine is to teach as method of representing a business process in a commercial transaction process as enunciated by Klingman(col 3 lines 8-11).

3. As per claim 2 Wong teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising altering the business process by changing its state-machine based representation(col 14 lines 29-49)(col 14 lines 57-col 15 line 7)(Fig 11)(Fig 10).

4. As per claim 3 Wong teaches the method of claim 1, wherein attributes of a state-machine based representation are tailored to a particular user(col 14 lines 42-48)(Fig 15)(col 15 line 14-49).

5. As per claim 4 Wong teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the state-machine based representation includes means for validating that actions taken by a user are allowed by the state machine description so as to ensure that the user has a role that can perform the requested action at that state(Fig 46)(col 18 lines 23-col 19 line 9)(col 14 lines 29-41)(Fig 49)(Fig 50)(Fig 51).

6. As per claim 5 Wong teaches the method of claim 1. Wong does not specifically teach wherein the business processes and their state-machine based representations can be synchronized with other business processes by passing messages between state machines. Klingman teaches passing messages between applications(Fig 2/62/64/66/68/74/76/70/72)(col 9 line 64-col 12 line 6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Wong in view of Klingman to teach the claim . The motivation to combine is to teach as method of representing a business process in a commercial transaction process as enunciated by Klingman(col 3 lines 8-11).

7. As per claim 6 Wong teaches a method for executing a business process represented as a state machine running on a computer system (Abstract) where transitions of the state machine represent roles of participants in the business process(Fig 129)(col 11 lines 30-46)(col 11 line 61-col 12 line 31) and actions that can be taken as part of the business process, and states of the state machine represent stages in the business process where the business process is waiting for an event to occur(Fig 4A-Fig 128)(col 12 line 53-col 13 line 7), the method comprising receiving from a user a command representing a desired action to be performed as part of the business process and executing the command if the command is allowable by a user within the context(col 14 lines 29-48).In addition to that taught by Wong, Klingman teaches checking the role of the user within the business process and a context in which the command occurs(col 10 lines 24-46). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Wong in view of Klingman to teach the claim . The motivation to combine is to teach as method of representing a business process in a commercial transaction process as enunciated by Klingman(col 3 lines 8-11).

8. As per claim 7 Wong teaches the method of claim 6, further comprising the step of displaying to users a list of possible commands to be issued by the user as part of the business process(Fig 5A)(Fig 10)(Fig 6B).

9. As per claim 8 Wong teaches the method of claim 7, where the displayed commands are selected for display based on the user's role within the business

process, the context of the business process, and the state of the business process(col 15 lines 14-col 16 line 12)(col 24 lines 41-48)(col 17 line 40-52).

10. As per claim 9 Wong teaches the method of claim 6, wherein different versions of a business process represented as different state machines share software for actions common in the different state machines, and share user interfaces by generating a means of user interaction based on the state machine descriptions(col 26 lines 15-19)(col 24 lines 5-64)(Fig 59).

11. As per claim 10 Wong teaches the method of claim 6. Wong does not teach specifically where the execution of different instances of a particular business process are handled by storing a current state for each instance of the business process.Klingman teaches this(Fig 2)(col 9 line 64-col 11 line 67). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Wong in view of Klingman to teach the claim . The motivation to combine is to teach as method of representing a business process in a commercial transaction process as enunciated by Klingman(col 3 lines 8-11).

12. As per claim 11 Wong teaches a system for executing a business process represented as a state machine running on a computing system(Abstract), where transitions of the state machine represent roles of participants in the business process(Fig 129)(col 11 line 30-49)(col 11 line 61-col 12 line 31) and actions that can be taken as part of the business process, and states of the state machine represent stages

in the business process where the business process is waiting for an event to occur(col 12 line 53-col 13 line 7)(Fig 4A-Fig 128) where the system comprises means for receiving from a user a command representing a desired action to be performed as part of the business process(col 13 line 9-col 14 line 15). Wong further teaches means for, if the command is allowable by a user with the role within the context, executing the command(col 14 lines 29-48). In addition to that taught by Wong, Klinger teaches means for checking the role of the user within the business process and a context in which the command occurs(col 10 lines 25-46). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Wong in view of Klingman to teach the claim . The motivation to combine is to teach as method of representing a business process in a commercial transaction process as enunciated by Klingman(col 3 lines 8-11).

13. As per claim 12 Wong teaches a computer program product in a computer readable medium for representing a business process within a computing system(Abstract), the computer program product comprising first instructions for defining the business process using a state-machine based representation where transitions of the state machine represent roles and actions(Fig 129)(col 11 line 61-col 12 line 31), and states of the state machine represent stages in the business process where the commerce system is waiting for an event to occur(Fig 4A-Fig 128)(col 12 line 53-col 13 line 7) and second instructions for identifying the actions that participants with particular roles can perform at particular stages of the business process by corresponding state in the state machine(col 13 line 9-col 14 line 29). Wong does not

specifically teach out-going transitions from that state. Klingman teaches this(Fig 2/50/52/54/56/62/66/70/76/84/86/78/74/72/68/64/60)(col 9 line 64-col 12 line 6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Wong in view of Klingman to teach the claim. The motivation to combine is to teach as method of representing a business process in a commercial transaction process as enunciated by Klingman(col 3 lines 8-11).

14. As per claim 13 Wong teaches a computer program product in a computer readable medium for executing a business process within a computing system(Abstract) where the computer program product comprising first instructions for receiving from a user a command representing a desired action to be performed as part of the business process(col 13 line 9-col 14 line 15) and second instructions for checking the role of the user within the business process(Fig 129)(col 11 lines 30-46)(col 11 line 61-col 12 line 31) and a context in which the command occurs (col 17 lines 40-52) and third instructions for, if the command is allowable by a user with the role within the context, executing the command(col 14 lines 29-48).In addition to that taught by Wong, Klingman also teaches checking the role of the user(col 10 lines 25-46). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Wong in view of Klingman to teach the claim. The motivation to combine is to teach as method of representing a business process in a commercial transaction process as enunciated by Klingman(col 3 lines 8-11).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

15. Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 USC 101 for failing to define a concrete, useful and tangible result.

Conclusion

16. **THIS ACTION IS MADE NON-FINAL.**

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17. Any questions concerning this communication should be addressed to the primary examiner of record, Dr. Geoffrey Akers, P.E., who can be reached between 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday at 703-306-5844. If attempts to contact the primary examiner are unsuccessful, the primary examiner's superior, Mr. Vincent Millin, SPE, may be telephoned at (703)-308-1065.

The fax number for Formal or Official faxes and Draft or Informal faxes to Technology Center 3600 or this Art Unit is (703)-308-3687. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-1113

June 24,2004

DR. GEOFFREY R. AKERS, P.E.
PRIMARY EXAMINER